

Date: Sun, 16 May 93 09:00:35 PDT
From: Info-Hams Mailing List and Newsgroup <info-hams@ucsd.edu>
Errors-To: Info-Hams-Errors@UCSD.Edu
Reply-To: Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu
Precedence: Bulk
Subject: Info-Hams Digest V93 #592
To: Info-Hams

Info-Hams Digest Sun, 16 May 93 Volume 93 : Issue 592

Today's Topics:

 AMTOR question (2 msgs)
 AMTOR with MFJ 1278
 Benefits of CW
 CFV to reorganize this group
 Churchill vs Astor
Info request on RCI-2950 and/or RCI-2970 (2 msgs)
 need help on EME demo
 no-code defense (really: learning morse code)
 Penta Labs 572-B & other tubes
 question about Radio Shack 2-MTR HT
 Ramsey Kits
 Why do they DO that?

Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu>
Send subscription requests to: <Info-Hams-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Info-Hams Digest are available
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/info-hams".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: Sun, 16 May 1993 04:33:23 GMT
From: agate!howland.reston.ans.net!wupost!csus.edu!netcom.com!netcomsv!xyzoom!
rob@ames.arpa
Subject: AMTOR question
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <1svucr\$spl@charm.magnus.acs.ohio-state.edu> wvanhorn@magnus.acs.ohio-
state.edu (William E Van Horne) writes:

>

>Dear Rob:

>

>The "AMTOR" with long-duration (approx 1 second) bursts that you heard
>is PACTOR.

>

>Pactor is a mode invented about 3 years ago in Germany, now widely
>available in the USA. For the user it is very similar to AMTOR but
>with several advantages that make it considerably more pleasant to
>use.

Van, could you elaborate a bit on your pleasure with PACTOR? Why is
it better than AMTOR?

I missed the articles in the ham mags on it.

Thanks.

--Rob

--

Rob Lingelbach KB6CUN | 2660 Hollyridge Dr LA CA 90068 213 464 6266 (voice)
rob@xyzzoom.info.com | "I care not much for a man's religion whose dog or
robl@netcom.com | cat are not the better for it." --Abraham Lincoln

Date: Sat, 15 May 1993 17:45:57 GMT
From: valinor.mythical.com!n5ial!jim@uunet.uu.net
Subject: AMTOR question
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <1svucr\$spl@charm.magnus.acs.ohio-state.edu>
wvanhorn@magnus.acs.ohio-state.edu (William E Van Horne) writes:

>Dear Rob:

>Pactor [....] is very similar to AMTOR but
>with several advantages that make it considerably more pleasant to
>use.

Such as the fact that (based on my usage so far), it's *VERY* bulletproof.
We're talking someone tuning up right on top of a QSO I was in, and it had
no apparent impact at all, even though the carrier was considerably
stronger than the person I was working on PacTOR. Also, it seems that it's
a lot less sensitive to QSB than normal AMTOR, too.

Put it this way...right from the very start, I've been impressed as h*ll
with PacTOR. :-)

>If you have the PK-232MBX, you can get PACTOR by simply buying
>the new "firmware" from AEA for \$85.00.

Kantronics provides an upgrade for the KAM, as well (this is how I got on PacTOR). Basically, it's the version 6.0 firmware.

--jim

--

#include <std_disclaimer.h>

73 DE N5IAL (/4)

INTERNET: jim@n5ial.mythical.com | j.graham@ieee.org ICBM: 30.23N 86.32W
AMATEUR RADIO: n5ial@w4zbb (Ft. Walton Beach, FL) AMTOR SELCAL: NIAL

E-mail me for information about KAMterm (host mode for Kantronics TNCs).

Date: 16 May 93 13:17:07 GMT
From: ogicse!emory!darwin.sura.net!gatekeeper.es.dupont.com!esds01.es.dupont.com!
GRIB%esvx12.es.dupont.com@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: AMTOR with MFJ 1278
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Hello All,

I have a MFJ 1278 where I am trying to get it working on AMTOR. I can copy some of the conversations with the "listen" command, but when I try to link up, the transmitter starts switching on and off, but I never have made the "link". The unit seems to work fine on RTTY, FAX, CW, and packet (both HF and VHF), so I'm not sure if it's the unit itself or if something I don't have set right. I have a SELCAL picked out and that's ready to use, so I'm a bit stumped.....

Other things.....what is the AGC setting that most people use on AMTOR? I have mine set at AGC slow, since the "fast" settings seem to interject a bit more noise than the slow setting....

Any help, or comments would be appreciated.

Thanks,

Joe KI3B

Date: 16 May 93 04:38:34 GMT
From: not-for-mail@uunet.uu.net
Subject: Benefits of CW
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

(munch)

This is the same retrograde noise I've discredited before, but it keeps rising from the dead, so here goes again.

The fundamental problem with this "emergency" operation justification is that learning the code once upon a time has NO bearing on whether you can operate code on the air. I am living proof that this argument is crap.

I learned morse code pretty well, or at least well enough to trivially pass the Novice 5 wpm exam. I promptly garbage-collected those neurons as best I could because I never intended to operate morse on the air and never have. Do YOU remember all the obscure characters from Greek Mythology you learned just to pass your Classics courses in college? Maybe you do, but very likely you don't. Why? BECAUSE YOU DON'T CARE.

I DON'T CARE ABOUT MORSE CODE. I learned it because it was then required, but I promptly forgot it and never used it.

Unless you are lobbying for some Draconian, utterly unenforcable rule like "must run CW once a week", this crap about "helping in emergencies" is vacuous.

One important observation is that in the Loma Prieta earthquake in Northern California, the mode of communication which did NOT go down was the Internet! While the Hams were trying to get organized to carry traffic, email was whizzing along just fine. Why? Because the technology AUTOMATICALLY adjusted for the backbone link outages. Yes, some sites were cut off, but it took at least two major link failures to get them, but they were back as soon as the router that lost power came back up.

So, if emergency communication is what you want, start learning about packet and self-managing networks instead of humans trying to play packet-switch sending messages via some odd on-off keying scheme with lousy bandwidth efficiency.

Well, there. Now i've done it.

Brian, cover my rear while I duck under the rock.

-Mike O'Dell, N4NLN

Date: 16 May 93 01:11:29 GMT
From: pacbell.com!amdahl!amdahl!ikluft@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: CFV to reorganize this group
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

sober, and you shall still be ugly.

-Mike O'Dell, N4NLN

(yes, I knew once knew Morse code just long enough the
pass the old Novice test. I haven't used it since.)

PS - thanks for spilling the beans about this petition. I'm quite sure
AMRAD (the folks that gave you AX.25 and the current spread spectrum
authorization), whose repeater is on 147.21 and welcomes no-code Techs with
open arms, will be quite happy to lobby *very* strongly against this
miscreant idea restricting privileges of the Technician licensees.

Date: 15 May 93 17:55:52 PST

From: haven.umd.edu!darwin.sura.net!wupost!csus.edu!netcom.com!netcomsv!hotcity!
nick@ames.arpa

Subject: Info request on RCI-2950 and/or RCI-2970

To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

erchul@csd4.csd.uwm.edu (David A. V. Erchul) writes:

>
> I would like to hear from anyone out here
> who has, has used or has information about
> the RCI-2950 or RCI-2970.
>
> Pros, cons and comparisons.
>
>
> (My first post here so please be kind!)

Well, as most everyone knows, it is sold as a 10 meter transceiver.
Yet, if you open it up and flip a couple DIP switches, you have a
26-32 MHz transceiver. Furthermore, you can LOCK the channels to
the 40 CB ones used. Overall, it's worth it's price, but extremely
large for a mobile. It does spaz out (if you try to push a button
(for the light dimmer) the channels will go up mysteriously. DO
NOT get the RCI-2970, many companies sell a kit to upgrade the 2950
to 100 watts (which is the RCI-2970) for about \$120.
Also, many features reset themselves if you turn the set OFF then ON.
The scanning is slow, the memory presets are OK, yet the clarity is
awesome (I've had numerous people telling how nice it sounds). I'd
reccomend this to anyone with the money.

- Nick

nick@hotcity.COM

Date: Sun, 16 May 1993 04:04:34 GMT
From: mvb.saic.com!unogate!news.service.uci.edu!usc!howland.reston.ans.net!
darwin.sura.net!uvaarpa!cabell.vcu.edu!jwill@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Info request on RCI-2950 and/or RCI-2970
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I second the motion: My 2950 is wonderful. It has good audio output and fidelity. Very large and clear readout. The one problem I had was the backup battery is simply a lithium coin cell soldered to the logic PCB and it will die after about a year or two. I simply replaced this battery with a 2-AAA battery holder from radio shack: pop riveted to the radio frame and used two AAA alkalines. The AAAs and plastic holder are cheaper than the lithium coin cell and make it easy to change memory backup batteries.

There is plenty of room inside and I have considered the possibility of perhaps locating and installing a 2-meter transverter for satellite work.... haven't been able to locate a cheap source for the basic transverter though.

Robert S. Williams

Date: Sat, 15 May 1993 09:15:04 GMT
From: saimiri.prima.te.wisc.edu!sdd.hp.com!portal!stevep@ames.arpa
Subject: need help on EME demo
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Attention: EME (moon bounce) experimenters!

This is a request for assistance. I've received a call from a person who wants to put on a display/demonstration of moon bounce at the Exploratorium in San Francisco. I know very little about it, so I need a volunteer or contacts to participate in this demo. Anyone interested?

Please respond via e-mail (stevep@shell.portal.com)
or phone (415) 964-1428 (answering machine ID's as
Mountain View Flight Service)

Thanks.

Steve Philipson
WB2EUZ

Date: Fri, 14 May 1993 11:52:55 GMT
From: dog.ee.lbl.gov!overload.lbl.gov!agate!howland.reston.ans.net!
paladin.american.edu!darwin.sura.net!knuth.mtsu.edu!raider!theporch!jackatak!
jackhill@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: no-code defense (really: learning morse code)
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

jhobson@SU19F.harris-atd.com (Harv Hobson) writes:
> In article <1993May11.150831.16772@leland.Stanford.EDU> paulf@umunhum.stanfor
> >My own personal observation is that there must be a million ways to *mislear
> >morse code, and only a dozen or so ways that really work. A few hints:
> >
> >2. Map sounds, not bits. This was my mistake for many years. It seems so
> > trivial, but it makes sense from a recognition theory point of view.
> > Don't, for example, memorize C as "dash dot dash dot", but as
> > "dah-dit-dah-dit"; note that you're "chunking" four items in the former
> > method, but only one in the latter.
>
> But learn it as dah-di-dah-dit (for C).
>
> Use "di" and "dah" except when the "di" is at the end of a character.
> Use "dit" only at the end of a character.

Actually, I believe that while Paul was trying to point out the problems with breaking a Morse character into component elements, and this is one of the greatest impediments to learning Morse, Harv's contribution seems to re-emphasize HOW to make those component elements of the Morse character.

The truth is, that until you associate the sound of the CHARACTER with the character, and remove ALL the "helpful aids" from the equation, learning Morse beyond 8-10 words per minute will be nigh onto impossible. The brain just can not do the table lookup any faster.

Look again at Paul's advice: "Map sounds, no bits." This one hint will make CW possible for more people than one might imagine. There are but 36 numbers and letters, with about 14 punctuation and prosigns, so the table size is but 50 sounds and characters...and, when one hears Morse, and immediately associates it with "C" instead of "dahdidahdit that's a 'C'" the speed barriers tend to fall away.

I would be happy to help and advise people, via e-mail, on CW learning. It is a part of the HF requirements, and rather than stubbornly wait for the rules to change -- which could be never -- why not let an Old Buzzard "elmer" you along so you too can enjoy HF?

Flames to: /dev/null/RI ;^)

73

```
+-----+
| Jack GF Hill      |Voice: (615) 459-2636 - Bicycling and SCUBA Diving |
| P. O. Box 1685    |Modem: (615) 377-5980 - Compu$erve 76427,31 |
| Brentwood, TN 37024|jackhill@jackatak.raider.net - Ham Call: W4PPT |
+-----+
```

Date: Fri, 14 May 1993 11:37:16 GMT

From: dog.ee.lbl.gov!overload.lbl.gov!agate!howland.reston.ans.net!

darwin.sura.net!knuth.mtsu.edu!raider!theporch!jackatak!jackhill@network.UCSD.EDU

Subject: Penta Labs 572-B & other tubes

To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

greg_chartrand@qmail.ssc.gov (Greg Chartrand) writes:

> Has anyone out there purchased these tubes? I'm interested if knowing if
> they are as good and/or reliable as the Cetron tubes. I'm also curious if
> anyone has bought the Penta Labs 3-500ZMP which is suppose to have 750
> watts dissipation.

Not sure what the hesitation is here. Penta Labs has been in business
for a long long time. They manufactured the PL-172 tube used in the
Hallicrafter's HT-33 amplifiers, and that was a pretty decent tube and
lasted forever...

I have not purchased any of the Penta Labs 572-B or 3-500Z(MP) tubes,
but that is because I have no amp that uses them... and, I am selling
my HT-33 because I hardly ever use the Alpha and having two unused
amps seems a waste when there must be several folks wanting to burn a
bigger hole in the ether! ;^)

> 73's

Best Regardeseses to you as well... ;^)

```
+-----+
| Jack GF Hill      |Voice: (615) 459-2636 - Bicycling and SCUBA Diving |
| P. O. Box 1685    |Modem: (615) 377-5980 - Compu$erve 76427,31 |
| Brentwood, TN 37024|jackhill@jackatak.raider.net - Ham Call: W4PPT |
+-----+
```

Date: Sat, 15 May 1993 17:03:45 GMT

From: agate!howland.reston.ans.net!gatech!kd4nc!ke4zv!gary@ames.arpa

Subject: question about Radio Shack 2-MTR HT
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <1t1655\$bhi@k2.sj.ate.slb.com> jones@sj.ate.slb.com (Clark Jones) writes:

>Gary Coffman (gary@ke4zv.uucp) wrote:

>: You should analyze your operating style. If you want to do mostly
>: beltloop operation, then the HT is for you. But if most of your
>: operating will be in the car, or at home, then a mobile with a
>: quick release bracket is likely a much better choice. You can get
>: a 2 meter mobile for little more than the HT, maybe less after you
>: figure in the amp and external mic and speaker.

>

>___WHERE???___ Gary, I don't consider \$500 to be a "little more" than \$200,
>which is the rumored sale price for the RS HT. Also, all of the mobile
>rigs I've looked at lately (not very seriously, though, as I don't have
>the \$500+ to buy one) have the problem of wide-band RX. I'd really like
>to hear if you know of a mobile rig that is truly only a little more than
>the RS HT, and also has the narrow front end! (BTW, I'll restrict it to
>"new", not a recycled Micor! ;-)

Well I don't consider \$500 a reasonable price for a 2 meter mobile
either, a dualbander maybe, but not a 2 meter only radio. Try the
Alinco DR-130T for \$309. It's a *50* watt mobile rig with CTCSS,
scanning, etc just like the high priced spread. You're going to
spend that much for the RS HT and a 30 watt power amp.

Gary

--

Gary Coffman KE4ZV		You make it,		gatech!wa4mei!ke4zv!gary
Destructive Testing Systems		we break it.		uunet!rsiatl!ke4zv!gary
534 Shannon Way		Guaranteed!		emory!kd4nc!ke4zv!gary
Lawrenceville, GA 30244				

Date: 15 May 93 17:20:24 GMT

From: dog.ee.lbl.gov!hellgate.utah.edu!caen!zaphod.mps.ohio-state.edu!
howland.reston.ans.net!sol.ctr.columbia.edu!news.kei.com!ddsw1!indep1!
clifto@network.UCSD.EDU

Subject: Ramsey Kits

To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <930512075012_2@ccm.hf.intel.com> Cecil_A_Moore@ccm.hf.INTel.COM (Cecil A Moore) writes:

>David, they have a wide range of test and ham gear and a 20 page catalog.
>Cecil...KG7BK

I do have to say that I once bought a Ramsey DVM because it was inexpensive. For years, it took a good beating. I eventually replaced it with a Fluke 77, but while I had both I compared the accuracy with various sources; the Ramsey was +/- 1 digit from the reading of the Fluke in all cases.

VERY respectable performance for an inexpensive piece of test equipment.

BTW, I gave the Ramsey to someone who uses a voltmeter less; it's about ten years old, still accurate and still chugging along.

--

```
+-----+
|  Cliff Sharp  |      clifto@indep1.chi.il.us   OR  clifto@indep1.uucp   |
|  WA9PDM      |      Use whichever one works                               |
+-----+
```

Date: Sun, 16 May 1993 03:18:15 GMT

From: mvb.saic.com!unogate!news.service.uci.edu!usc!howland.reston.ans.net!

darwin.sura.net!news-feed-1.peachnet.edu!nscf!lakes!jcox@network.UCSD.EDU

Subject: Why do they DO that?

To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

rcomm@muvms6.wvnet.edu writes:

> I have been reading quite a lot here about how various HT's and scanners and
> such are modify-able. As the HTs are concerned, a user may modify the radio
> transmit outside of designated amateur bands. My question is WHY do
> manufacturers knowingly engineer and manufacture radios that can do this? Is
> it to satisfy the ham's incurable urge to tinker? (i.e. they know hams are
> going to mess with something, so they provide 'hidden' features so that messe
> don't REALLY mess up their radio!) Or is there some practical reason that
> prevents them from engineering a synthesized-tuning radio that can only
> synthesize ham freqs from the chip level? WHY? WHY? WHY?

>
> Just wondering...

>
> Randall Comm
> N8VMR
> rcomm@muvms6.mu.wvnet.edu
> OR rcbl106@muvms3.mu.wvnet.edu
> OR rcomm@rcbins.mu.wvnet.edu
> The Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing
> Marshall University Research Corporation
>

I would hope that the reason is to accomodate Civil Air Patrol (CAP) and Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) users. These services use frequencies adjacent to the 2m band, both above and below. As a

long-time USAF MARS member, I would not buy a radio that was not modifiable for MARS transmit.

73, John
WD4PKZ/AFA2TS

Date: 15 May 93 17:39:40 GMT
From: valinor.mythical.com!n5ial!jim@uunet.uu.net
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <2299@indep1.UUCP>, <1993May14.130719.26556@ke4zv.uucp>,
<1t0mb0INNfb7@mojo.eng.umd.edu>
Subject : Re: Going about building your first transceiver??

apologies if I got the quotes and the names mismatched....

In article <1t0mb0INNfb7@mojo.eng.umd.edu> chuck@eng.umd.edu
(Chuck Harris - WA3UQV) writes:
>>In article <1993May12.063027.15378@ke4zv.uucp> gary@ke4zv.UUCP
>>(Gary Coffman) writes:
>>
>> Not sure what you mean here. I'd gladly jump out of a swimming pool and
>>grab my 12V, 800A car battery, one terminal in each hand; but I wouldn't
>
>Not me! If you have an open wound on each hand, the 12v battery, in contact
>with each wound, will kill you just fine. It's the current that kills you;
>it's your skin's resistance that keeps the low voltages from building up
>enough current to harm you, usually.

There is a simple rule that I've always followed (well, ever since the time I got hit by 660 VDC...luckily enough, even then I knew to keep one hand well out of the way so it wasn't across the chest). The rule is, when dealing with large power supplies, always assume that it is capable of a painful, if not lethal, jolt. When I work with the 12 VDC, 25 Amp power supply for my HF rig (i.e., adding something else on to the supply's terminals), I *ALWAYS* turn off the supply before doing anything else. I usually don't discharge the caps, and one day, I'll no doubt pay for that carelessness, too.

Better safe than sorry, right?

btw, on a related note, when I was still in school, during one of our trips to a telephone C.O., the tech who was showing us around the battery room (for those who don't know, the telephone network is powered by huge -48 VDC batteries) mentioned that one time, someone accidentally dropped a rather large wrench across both the negative and ground bars between

the batteries and the switch...the wrench (all 3 pieces of it) never even slowed down as it melted and passed right through those power bars.

--jim

--

#include <std_disclaimer.h>

73 DE N5IAL (/4)

INTERNET: jim@n5ial.mythical.com | j.graham@ieee.org ICBM: 30.23N 86.32W
AMATEUR RADIO: n5ial@w4zbb (Ft. Walton Beach, FL) AMTOR SELCAL: NIAL

E-mail me for information about KAMterm (host mode for Kantronics TNCs).

Date: 16 May 1993 08:56:16 -0700
From: network.ucsd.edu!not-for-mail@network.UCSD.EDU
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <1ssjip\$rkp@agate.berkeley.edu>,
<1993May13.055429.14691@physics.unr.edu>, <1t5ckaINNogk@rodan.UU.NET>
Subject : Re: Benefits of CW

Actually, Mike, you forgot to mention the other communications technology that kept working in the Loma Prieta earthquake: telephones. Between the internet and the public phone system (including cellular phones), it was pretty clear that hams had little to offer the emergency services people.

Yes, hams do well in the health-and-welfare messaging arena, providing loved ones with some reassurance that their relatives are still kicking, but the days when ham radio was the only communications for emergencies are long over. Where hams help these days are in the days AFTER the emergency. And that's a noble thing. But it rarely is critical to life and safety.

It seems to me that the "in case of emergency" argument in favor of Morse code is self-defeating: as the number of hams physically capable of responding in an emergency decreases - remember, the age of the ham population [before no-code] was steadily increasing, with more than half of it over 50 - the likelihood of there being a ham on-scene with any ability to make use of his Morse knowledge was steadily declining. To take it to an extreme, it might well have gotten to the point where the only place Morse could be of use in an emergency is in rest homes.

Morse code has an honored place in our hobby. But as a licensing requirement, its time has passed.

- Brian

End of Info-Hams Digest V93 #592
